

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 L-02 COA-01 EB-03 DLOS-03 IO-03 DRC-01 PRS-01

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R 281548Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1887

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 10112

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR VE CO

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS FOR DELIMITATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF
BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA

1. YESTERDAY AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN IN HONOR OF MYSELF AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS, MIGUEL ANGEL CAPRILES, OWNER OF VENEZUELA'S LARGEST CHAIN OF NEWSPAPERS, TOLD ME THAT IN FACT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AT NEGOTIATING LEVEL BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA TO DELIMIT CONTINENTAL SHELF IN GULF OF VENEZUELA. CAPRILES' STATEMENT WAS CONFIRMED BY EDITOR OF HIS PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPER, "ULTIMAS NOTICIAS", WHO ADDED THAT VENEZUELAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ZAMBRANO HAD PERSONALLY CONDUCTED THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR VENEZUELAN SIDE AND THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH COLOMBIA ON TACIT CONDITION THAT NO RPT NO PUBLICITY WOULD BE GIVEN UNTIL AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES. PRESUMABLY, THEREFORE, REVELATION OF THE ACCORD MIGHT COME AS EARLY AS APRIL 1974 IF IN FACT THIS ACCOUNT IS TRUE. I MAY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY NEXT TIME I SEE FONMIN CALVANI TO CHECK VERACITY OF THE REPORT.

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2. NELSON LUIS MARTINEZ, EDITOR OF "ULTIMAS NOTICIAS," WENT

ON TO ADD THAT, IF COPEI PARTY WINS ELECTIONS, ZAMBRANO MIGHT
IN FACT BE DESIGNATED AS CHIEF OF THE FRONTIERS SECTION OF
VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH A VIEW NOT ONLY TO
REGULARIZATION OF BORDER RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA BUT ALSO TO
ONCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND THE HAGUE
TO DELIMIT CONTINENTAL SHELF AS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE
ADJACENT ISLANDS. MARTINEZ LIKEWISE MENTIONED VENEZUELA'S
FUTURE FRONTIER RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH GUYANA AND BRAZIL
AS COMING WITHIN ZAMBRANO'S JURISDICTION.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

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